

MR. McCUEN: Good morning. I'm James McCuen from Okanogan County, Washington State. I represent the Colville Tribe. I'm a member of the IAC Board from the Portland area office. The Colville Tribe is really aggressive. We do have an extension agent. We do have the NRCS on the reservation, and it's all due to IAC and getting the 1993 Farm Bill with the statement in there that says, "These agencies will be on the reservation one day a week." We can't get farm credit there yet, but I'm working on the guy. EIRS, we have a young lady that's running our program that's doing a fantastic job. Three or four years she has worked there without a raise. She furnishes her own transportation. Her dad helped her get her truck to drive on our reservation. 50 What other federal agency has not had a cost of living raise? None of them, not one of them.

This young lady is dedicated to our reservation. She's a non-member. NRCS man is there on the reservation five days a week. He could not be at this because they told him they didn't have any money to come here. We've got a successful program going, and that man cannot come here and share with the rest of these conservation people on how we are succeeding. People need to wake up, get the damn big money out of your back pocket. We don't have a bunch of money to come and lobby the Secretary of Agriculture, the senators, or whatnot. Listen to what we are saying. Put Indian language into the Farm Bill that will help us, not hinder us. We need the help.

We had a lady there on our reservation, one of our tribal members, put out \$30,000 out of her own pocket for a home living agent. She give it to us, and the tribe matched it. The biggest thing that that lady that we had hired did was teach people how to cook commodities. Now where is that \$30,000 that that lady give. She has done that for 10 or 11 years out of her own pocket. 51 Where is the federal government? Sending it to Iraq, re-building schools there that I am not ever going to see. We need to come and help our own people right here and get some programs that work for us. NRCS is a good example on our reservation. We had operators build a fence, and there is a few horses in our country plus cattle, and he made fence 48 inches tall or 50 inches tall to keep the horses separated. NRCS come in and made him remove them fence and rebuild it to 45 inches because that's what their standard said. Somebody's screwy.

The man built a fence that held the cows and horses, but yet they made him remove it before they'd do the cost share. Another operator put the wrong kind of treated post in. They weren't fully treated the full length. They made him remove it, you know, and that costs money every time a man re-does what he is doing. And so he has twice as much money in his project for that little bit of money that the federal government comes out with. Write the standards that fit everybody. I'm as proud of the next man of what we do, and if the standards aren't all the same, the programs are not going to work. Thank you.

MR. RACINE: Thank you, James.